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53	<pre>((((((database\$1 OR register\$1 OR registr\$3 OR administrator\$1 OR agent\$1 OR vendor\$ OR server\$1 OR station\$1)</pre>	USPAT	2003/06/02 09:57
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3	79	((person\$4 OR user\$2 OR subscriber\$2 OR customer\$2 OR individual\$2 OR party\$1) NEAR4 (information OR data OR attribute\$1 OR detail\$1 OR characteristic\$1))	USPAT	2003/06/02	10:02
		SAME			
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US-PAT-NO:

6005939

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER:

US 6005939 A

TITLE:

Method and apparatus for storing an

internet user's

identity and access rights to world

wide web resources

----- KWIC -----

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (11):

In accordance with a further aspect of the present invention, a method for

establishing a passport includes the steps of (a) receiving, in a passport

agent, a request from a user to establish a passport, (b) opening a secure

communication channel between the passport agent and the user, (c) presenting,

via the passport agent, a series of menus to the <u>user in</u> response to which the

user enters information and (d) storing the user

information as a passport in a

passport database. With this particular arrangement, a method for allowing a

user to access a plurality of public network sites is provided. In one

embodiment, the method further includes the step of securing the passport data.

For example, such a method may include the steps of assigning an encryption key

to the user and transmitting a public key to the user to allow the user to

release a passport from the database. Any particular site which requires

particular user information can obtain the user information from the user's

passport without having to prompt the user for the parameter each time the web

site is visited. To protect the user's privacy, the method may optionally

include the steps of assigning a particular security level
to each item of user

information stored in the passport. By assigning a
security level a user can

protect sensitive information from being indiscriminately
disclosed while the

passport still can be used to grant access to more public information. For

example, if currently visiting the IBM home page on the Internet, the user must

specify a language in which to communicate. Such a user parameter may now be

specified in a user passport which is provided to the home page server. Thus,

a user need no longer specify such a parameter.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (20):

Also coupled to Internet 200 is a passport server 212 and a passport data

base 214. Passport server 212 and passport database 214 may be collectively

referred to as a passport agent 216. Users 208 can store certain **personal and**

optional demographic information in passport database 214.
The information

need only be stored once, and, at the <u>user's option</u>, assigned a security level

for each item of information. The information may be stored, for example, as a

record or as a file. Thus, passport agent 216 includes a database of **user**

information for each of the users
services of passport
who wish to utilize the

agent 216. The <u>information for each particular user is</u> stored in a particular

data structure referred to as a passport.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (31):

The passport 304 includes a second field corresponding to a security level

field 306. A <u>security level is assigned to each item of</u> user information

included in the passport data field 305. Thus, for example, if data in field

305 is assigned a security level of 0 then the data is clear. Alternatively,

if the data is assigned a security level of 1 then the data is secured via a

security technique such as an encryption technique. passport 304 also

includes a key field 308. One or more keys for encryption and decryption may

be stored in key field 308.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (32):

Referring to FIG. 4, a flow diagram illustrating the process steps to create

a passport is shown. Coding of the process steps of the flowchart of FIG. 4

into instructions suitable to control the computer systems in the passport

agent 216 and the user system 208 will be understood by those having ordinary

skill in the art of programming. First, the user sends a request to generate a

passport to passport agent 216, as illustrated by process step 400. The

passport agent receives the request, as illustrated by process step 402, and

opens a secure communication channel between the passport agent and the

requesting user, as illustrated by process 404. Passport agent 216 then

presents to the user a series of queries which may be in the form of menus, as

illustrated by process block 406. In response, the user enters the requested

information such as social security number, drivers license number, etc., and a

corresponding level of security to protect the information item, as illustrated

by process blocks 408 and 410. The user specified

information is referred to

herein as user information or environmental variables. security levels

assigned to each item of user information or environment variables range from

highly secure to public. For example, particularly sensitive information may

be designated as highly secured and assigned a high security level of 100 on an exemplary scale of 0-100 levels. Less sensitive information may be designated as less secured or even public and assigned a lower security level approaching or equal to zero. Next, passport agent 216 provides a public key to the user to access the passport data, as illustrated by process 418. Finally, the user's information which collectively comprises the Internet passport is stored and maintained in a highly secured server site on the Internet which serves as the passport agent and guarantees the integrity of the users passport, as illustrated by process block 420. Claims Text - CLTX (36): (f) the user assigning a security level to each item of user profile information; Claims Text - CLTX (37): (g) the passport agent assigning an encryption key to the user based at least in part on the security level assigned each item of user profile information by the user; Claims Text - CLTX (50): means for assigning a security level to each item of user information received by said means for receiving;

Claims Text - CLTX (69):

(c) program code for receiving from the user a security level assigned to each item of user profile information;

Claims Text - CLTX (70):

(d) program code for assigning an encryption key to the user based at least in part on the security level assigned each item of user profile information by the user;

Claims Text - CLTX (76):

(c) program code portion for receiving from the <u>user a security level</u>
assigned to each item of user profile information;

Claims Text - CLTX (77):

(d) program code portion for assigning an encryption key to the user based at least in part on the security level assigned each item of user profile information by the user;